



McGill

C e n t r e f o r

Intelligent Machines

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Newsletter

Sexual harassment workshop

CIM will hold an information session on Sexual Harassment on **Friday October 27, from 9:30 to 11:00 in Room 437**. Prof. Pat Wells, Sexual Harassment Assessor at McGill, will be giving the seminar. There have been two reported cases of sexual harassment at CIM recently and therefore we are requesting that everyone at CIM attend the workshop. Staff and students who are unable to attend on Oct. 27 should attend the seminar which the faculty of Engineering will be setting up and which will be announced at a later date. Please mark this date on your calendar, and if you would like further information, don't hesitate to contact Janet at <jmb>.

Thanksgiving holiday Monday October 9, 1995

Please note that all McGill administration offices will be closed on Monday October 9, including those at CIM. Have a happy & safe Thanksgiving !

Referendum Day - October 30, 1995

Please be advised that all classes, laboratories and examinations in all faculties and in the Centre for Continuing Education are canceled on October 30, 1995, Referendum Day.

All employees eligible to vote must be given four (4) consecutive hours for voting, not counting the time normally allowed for meals. This requirement can be met by allowing staff to leave at 4:00 PM.

Don't forget to get out there and vote!



NEWS AND EVENTS

Hats off to ...

Peter Caines would like to thank the CIMites who sponsored him for the Montreal Classic Mont Royal 10km race for Breast Cancer Research on the 10th of September. He collected \$185 from all sources and finished in an (unofficial) personal best time of 45 min. 3 seconds. Congratulations, Peter!

Congratulations to Prof. Jorge Angeles who was elected President of the International Federation for the Theory of Machines and Mechanisms (IFTToMM) at the 8th General Assembly held in Milan on August 31. He will hold the position from January, 96 to December, 99.

Welcome to...

Kaleem Siddiqi was born and raised in Bombay, India. He attended Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, graduating with a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering. Subsequently he pursued graduate studies in Electrical Engineering at Brown University, Providence Rhode Island, where he obtained Masters and Ph.D. degrees. His main research interests are in computer and human vision, and in particular, applications of curve evolution to problems such as shape description for object recognition. He comes to CIM as a visiting assistant professor for the EE department.

Also joining the Centre as a visiting assistant professor in EE is Charalambos Charalambous (Bambos) who is originally from the Island of Cyprus. He attended Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia and spent the last two years at Idaho State University as a Post-doctoral research

fellow. His research interests are in the field of stochastic control and estimation. Welcome to McGill and to CIM!

Fadi Beyrouti is pursuing his Masters degree under the supervision of Profs. Frank Ferrie and Franco Callari. He graduated last June from Electrical Engineering at McGill. He has actually been working in the APLab since January. He said that he chose CIM because of his interest in vision (human and computer), and also because the people here are COOL! He likes all kinds of sports, in particular tennis and soccer, and music (he plays the violin). Oh! and also (very important) he really enjoys partying a lot on the weekend!!!

Shuping Qing has joined the Centre from Beijing China. (In fact, he was born in Tianjin). He graduated from the Dept. of Automation, Tsinghua University in 1992. After that, he worked in an electronic company for three years. He is studying for his Masters degree under the joint supervision of Profs. L. Lin and G. Zames. He would like to invite everyone to come meet him in room 427.

Good-bye to...

After almost four years working under the supervision of Prof. Angeles, **Kourosh Etemadi-Zanganeh** defended his thesis entitled: *Kinematics of Manipulators with Parallelism, Modularity and Redundancy: Analysis and Design* on Sept. 8. "Now", he said "I feel more relaxed! I am going to take a vacation for two months: one week in France, and the rest in Iran. When I come back at the end of November, I will move to Toronto. I received an NSERC post-doctoral award and will start my tenure at the Institute for Aerospace Studies at U of T. My research will be mostly focused on 'variable geometry trusses'. Although I will move to a new place, I still believe that CIM is one of the best robotics centers in Canada and even North America. I already feel that I miss this place. I had a great time with people around here and they were very kind, friendly and helpful from the very first day

that I became one of CIM's graduate students." Congratulations, Kourosh and good luck!

On September 28, **Yuanjun Wei** successfully defended his doctoral thesis entitled *Logic Control: Markovian Fragments, Hierarchy and Hybrid Systems* after what he describes as a "six-year cruise ship trip around the Centre!" As for the future, he is still hesitating about moving "to some place near the Eaton store in Ottawa to pursue his NSERC research fellowship". Now that the pressure is off, Yuanjun's s favorite pastime is to play with his new baby girl **Monica**, born on Aug. 8th, just one week after he submitted his thesis! As the proud father, he is happy to say that she has already doubled her weight, that she enjoys reading his thesis and is already asking many questions! Whatever he decides to do now, his family's long term goal is to come back to Montreal before the end of the century. Congratulations and all the best!

Two other students defended their theses last month but unfortunately have not yet recovered enough from the shock to send us their comments: **Abbas Fattah** and **Kyunsang Cho**. Congratulations to both of you. **Benoit Dubuc** is thrilled to have finally submitted, we'll get more details from him at a later date.

On October 2, **Dr. Bao Yin Wang** said good-bye after a 12 month visit at CIM. He told us that he really appreciated the time he spent here and the friendly people at the Centre. He will travel in Canada before returning to China.

Procedures for 'special room requests'

The Faculty of Engineering has asked us to circulate the following information:

It is becoming more and more difficult to satisfy the needs of the many users of class and examination rooms in the Faculty. We just do not have excess classroom capacity, especially during the peak periods of the week. The following simple

procedures will make it easier for me to respond quickly to your requests, and to satisfy the various needs of your Department/School.

Please e-mail special room requests (i.e. meeting, seminars, midterms, quizzes...) at least two/three days prior to the actual date. If you prefer, 'Room Request' forms are available in Rm 378 MD and an electronic version can be sent to you upon request. Furthermore, it is important that the following information be included with your request:

Name, email address or phone # of contact person
Course # or name of event
Date (dd/mm/yy) and Time (duration)
Reason for room, i.e. quiz, meeting, seminar...
of persons expected

Space is very limited and bookings for 'special requests' are based on a 'first-come-first-serve' basis. When scheduling mid-terms, especially for large classes, please confirm your room needs with me well in advance, and preferably, before making final arrangements with your class. It may not be possible to meet your requirements for a room(s) to hold a test (particularly for large classes), and when the request comes well into the semester.

Instructors who hold classes during the prime-time hours of the week (late morning/early afternoon) will have the most difficulty in finding suitable classroom space for special events such as tests. There is greater flexibility in the early morning and late afternoon.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. My e-mail address is Nancy@eng1.lan.mcgill.ca.

Submitted by Nancy Czemmell



CIM Stag II and more wedding news

CIM Stag II proved to be a success. Many people brought with them fine liquors and aged whiskeys which complimented the professional and worldly atmosphere synonymous with academic researchers. Despite one "guest", who was "full of hot air" and tagged onto the groom most of the time, fun was had by all. Even some of the Montreal tourists seemed genuinely happy to be part of the event.

On August 25th at 1 PM, I married my girlfriend of 5 years, Anita Peetush. The wedding took place at a lakeside cottage in Maine. The trees, lake and blue sky culminated in a beautiful setting for the marriage ceremony which was held on the cottage balcony.

Our biggest fear before the wedding was the catering. The caterers were booked from long distance without meeting them or receiving any recommendations. Thankfully they, as well as the flower, cake and dessert people, did a fantastic job making the day run very smoothly. It was surprising to both of us that neither of us were nervous before the wedding. The same cannot be said for my mother, who was shaking for about 3 hours before the ceremony! I did exhibit one subconscious sign of nerves, though, when I put shaving cream in my hair 1 hour before the ceremony. We were very pleased that the wedding went well and all 17 (yes seventeen) guests had a good time.

We spent our honeymoon in Cuba which can be described in one word: HOT (or maybe two words: VERY HOT.) We were at an all inclusive (leave your brain at home) resort which was great medicine. Over the course of the holiday we went sailing, wind surfing, snorkeling, did lots of swimming and scuba diving and, of course, eating and drinking. The Cuban people were very nice and they seemed to be a very happy people.

Finally, on behalf of Anita and myself I would like to thank everyone for their well wishes.

Submitted by Oliver Astley

Time to update the photo board

A reminder for newcomers to CIM: there is a CIM photo board in the lobby which displays photos of CIM people. If you have a picture of yourself that you would like to post, please bring them to Kathleen in 410.

Articles & ideas are welcome. Please send them by e-mail to the editor. Deadline for publication is the 7th of every month.

Editor: Janet Burghardt (e-mail: jmb@cim.mcgill.ca)

Associate Editors: Paul Mackenzie <mackenzi>
Kathleen VanderNoot <kathleen>



'Tis almost the season ...

The Fall Semester has barely begun and the weather is still balmy but it IS October already so it's time to start planning the '95 edition of the ever-popular CIM December Holiday Party. Once again we are asking everyone to send in their ideas, suggestions, and comments to help us plan this memorable event. Please contact <jmb> if you would like to contribute in any way to this project. We're hoping all you talented people out there will participate!

News flash from the Ethernet

The heaviest element known to science was recently discovered by physicists at NASA. The element, tentatively named **Administratium**, has 1 neutron, 125 deputy neutrons, 75 associate neutrons, and 111 deputy associate neutrons. This gives it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together in the nucleus by a force that involves the continuous exchange of meson-like particles called morons.

Since it has no electrons, **Administratium** is inert. However, it can be detected chemically as it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. According to the discoverers, a minute amount of **Administratium** caused one reaction to

take over four days to complete, when it would normally occur in less than one second.

Administratium has a normal half life of approximately three years, at which time it does not actually decay, but instead undergoes a reorganization in which deputy neutrons, associate neutrons, and deputy associate neutrons exchange places. Some studies have shown that the atomic mass actually increases after each reorganization.

Research at other laboratories indicates that **Administratium** occurs naturally in the atmosphere. It tends to concentrate at certain points such as government agencies, large corporations and universities, and can usually be found in the newest, best appointed and best maintained buildings.

Scientists point out that **Administratium** is known to be toxic at any level of concentration and can easily destroy any productive reaction where it is allowed to accumulate. Attempts are being made to determine how **Administratium** can be controlled to prevent irreversible damage, but results to date are not promising.

Submitted by Ethel Net

and another one

The FAA has a device for testing the strength of windshields on airplanes. They point this thing at the windshield of the aircraft and shoot a dead chicken at about the speed the air-craft normally flies at it. If the windshield doesn't break, it's likely to survive a real collision with a bird during flight.

The British had recently built a new locomotive that could pull a train faster than any before it. They were not sure that its windshield was strong enough so they borrowed the testing device from the FAA, reset it to approximate the maximum speed of the locomotive, loaded in the dead chicken, and fired. The bird went through the windshield, broke the engineer's chair, and made a major dent in the back wall of the engine cab.

They were quite surprised with this result, so they asked the FAA to check the test to see if

everything was done correctly. The FAA checked everything and suggested that they might want to repeat the test using a thawed chicken.

Submitted by Paul Mackenzie via Jonathan Levine

CIM TOP TEN

Top Ten Mike Parker (Mouse) Pet Peeves

⑩ People who are confused with his given nickname and refer to him as Rat, Gerbil or "that rodent guy".

⑨ Outdoor bicycle racks.

⑧ Barber shops.

⑦ Days with only 24 hours.

⑥ Pesky students who have the false impression he's a wireless, interactive man page.

⑤ Offices with more floor space than a closet.

④ /home directories.

③ Being too busy to relax by programming in raw PostScript.

② Cute workstation boot-up tunes.

① Shoes.

Submitted by Paul Mackenzie

Happy Halloween

